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**THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF HALTWHISTLE**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

and of

**THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

**For the Year, 1970**

**STAFF :**

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W. FORSTER, M.A.P.H.I.	{ <i>Public Health Inspector</i>
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Mrs. M. M. THOBURN	-	-	<i>Clerk Typist</i>
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*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council  
of Haltwhistle :*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1970.

Sufficient has been said in previous forewords to make a detailed description of the District tedious and unnecessary. The economy has changed little during the year and is unlikely to change quickly. The town of Haltwhistle grows slowly, as all Council house building is concentrated there and there is a satisfactory diversity of employment, while the villages are slowly losing population to the town or further afield, as they offer little prospects of employment beyond farming. The beauty and peacefulness of the district are a considerable asset, apart from the tourist attractions of the Roman Wall and the new excavations at Vindolanda, and the number of visitors is expected to increase. The future of the Alston line remains doubtful, depending as it does on Government subsidy, but in the absence of an adequate alternative road it is to be hoped that the line will not be closed. The environmental services have been so improved that they call for little comment. Mains water has been supplied where it is possible, and modern sewage disposal facilities have been or will soon be provided wherever the cost is reasonable and in some places where it might not be so considered. The housing situation in general is satisfactory, although some further building is contemplated. When re-organisation comes as seems certain the Council will bring to the new authority a viable and well serviced district whose condition must give them satisfaction.

The mid-year population is estimated at 6,780 a decrease of 70 from the previous year, while the number of deaths exceeded the number of births by 10. The birth rate is rather lower than the national average and the death rate slightly over this figure, but the differences are minimal. There was one infant death, giving an infant mortality rate of 13.0 per 1,000 live births against the national figure of 18.0, and favourable though the local figure is it shows by how much a single death weighs heavily where the number of births is small. All but 20 of the deaths were of people aged 65 or over, and all but 30 of people over 75, and the most frequent causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation. Such a high proportion of deaths in old age is gratifying, but it indicates also the large proportion of older people in the com-

munity for whose welfare the Council is increasingly providing.

Comment on infectious disease and methods for its prevention was at one time a major part of an Annual Report, but this is no longer so. During 1970 the only notifications were 3 cases of Scarlet Fever and 9 of Measles. There were no cases of tuberculosis.

Although it is not notifiable, undulant fever can occur through drinking milk from a cow infected with *Brucella abortus*. For this reason routine sampling of milk has been carried out by the Health Department for some years, with negative results. In 1970, however, one routine sample was positive and detailed investigation revealed three infected animals which were slaughtered. Another positive result was reported by the Ministry of Agriculture and in this case one infected animal was indentified and destroyed. More cannot be asked of a farmer than that he isolate an infected animal and discontinue the use for human consumption of milk from an infected cow, and it is very creditable that in these cases the safer policy was adopted even though compensation for slaughter is not paid.

While no Council houses were built during 1970 it was a year of preparation for a considerable addition to housing for the elderly. At Greenholme Road there are 32 houses under the supervision of a warden, though not offering the other facilities of sheltered accommodation, and it is planned to build a futher 16. At Holme Terrace it is proposed to build fully sheltered accommodation in the form of 17 flats, with in addition 10 bungalows. These schemes will do much to meet the needs of the growing number of older people in the community, and continues the excellent record of the Council in this respect. Although no new houses were built, and it is unlikely that further houses will be built except in Haltwhistle, the loss of older houses, particularly in the villages, that would not have been replaced has been avoided by the generous use of improvement grants. Well over 500 have been so improved and now provide satisfactory accommodation.

There has been no change in the system whereby the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, as statutory water undertakers, take regular samples of water and remedy



any defects, while the Health Department provide similar services for the relatively few private and proposed supplies. Work on the extension of the sewage disposal works at Halt-whistle was completed during the year, and while the joint scheme with Border Rural District Council is still under negotiation Ministry approval was given to the proposed new schemes for Slaggyford, Knaresdale, Lambley, Woodhouse and Plennmeller. These are the only remaining schemes that require to be implemented and although the cost is relatively high they will complete the provision of modern sewage disposal facilities throughout the District.

The Chairman and Members of the Health Committee continue to take an active interest in all matters affecting the health of the community and I am grateful for their encouragement and support. I am similarly grateful to the Clerk and other officers for their help and co-operation and to the Public Health Inspector in whose capable hands is the day to day work of the Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## **SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA**

The area of the Haltwhistle Rural District is 96,333 acres. The only town is Haltwhistle, the other centres of population being villages.

The estimated population for 1970 is 6,780 which is a decrease of 70 from 1969

The number of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1970, was 2,500.

The rateable value at 31st March, 1970, is £184,327.

The sum represented by a penny rate at 31st March, 1970 is £724. 1s. 0d.

## **VITAL STATISTICS**

### **Population**

The population of the Haltwhistle Rural District estimated at 30th June, 1970 was 6,780.

### **Birth Rate**

There were 78 live births, giving a birth rate of 13.2 per 1,000 population when the comparability factor is applied. It compares with 16.0 per 1,000 population for all England and Wales.

Of the total of 79 live births, 1 was illegitimate. There was 1 still-birth, compared with none in 1969.

### **Infantile Mortality**

There was 1 death of an infant under one year. The infant mortality rate is 13.0 per 1,000 live births, the rate for England and Wales being 18 per 1,000.

### **General Death Rate**

A total of 88 deaths occurred during 1970 a decrease of 22 on 1969. When the comparability factor is applied, the death rate is 12.2 per 1,000 population. The figure for all England and Wales is 11.7 per 1,000.

12 deaths were due to Cancer, compared with 17 in 1969.

# **VITAL STATISTICS SUMMARY**

## Live Births :

Number .. .. .	78
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population .. ..	13.2
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	1.28

## Stillbirths : ..

Number .. .. .	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births .. ..	13.0

Total Live and Still Births .. .. .	79
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Infant Deaths (deaths under one year) .. ..	1
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## Infant Mortality Rates :

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ..	13.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .. .. .	13.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. .. .	Nil

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per, 1,000 total live births) .. .. .	Nil
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Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) .. .. .	Nil
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Perinatal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) .. .. .	13.0
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## Maternal Mortality (including abortion) :

Number of deaths .. .. .	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births .. ..	Nil

## HEALTH SERVICES

### Hospitals

#### (a) HALTWHISTLE WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Surgeon :	Mr. C. I. Raeburn, F.R.C.S. (Ed.)
Gynaecologist :	Mr. D. T. Barber, F.R.C.S.
Physician :	Dr. J. B. Ryder, M.D., M.R.C.P.
Matron :	Miss E. M. Armstrong.

This hospital, which includes a modern Maternity Wing, is under the Management of the Hexham and District Management Committee.

The Local House Committee—Chairman, Mr. G. E. Dent, meets on the first Friday of alternate months.

- (i) *X-Ray Department.*  
X-Ray examinations are carried out Thursdays at 1-30 p.m.  
Consultant Radiologist : Dr. W. Davidson.
- (ii) *Gynaecologist Out-Patient Department.*  
First Tuesday every month at 11-30 a.m.
- (iii) *Surgical Out-Patient Department.*  
Wednesdays, 12 noon.
- (iv) *Medical Out-Patient Department.*  
Alternate Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
- (v) *Physio-Therapy Department.*  
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1-30 — 5 p.m.

#### (b) HEXHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Accommodation at this hospital is available for patients from this district. A number of medical cases for detailed investigation and some major emergency surgical cases are referred there and such special facilities as Physiotherapy are available.

#### (c) CARLISLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

WALKERGATE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL,  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Cases of infectious disease requiring In-patient treatment are accommodated at the above hospitals.



## Tuberculosis Service

### (a) CHEST CLINICS

Hexham General Hospital — Tuesdays from 9 a.m.

Tuberculosis Officer—Frederic L. Wollaston, M.R.C.S.

Tuesdays .. .. . 2—4 p.m.

Fridays .. .. . 5—6-30 p.m.

### INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

#### (i) *Wooley Hospital.*

The standard of treatment at this hospital continues to be exceptionally high, and there is now no waiting list for admission.

#### (ii) *Stannington Sanatorium.*

25 Children's beds are available.

## Midwifery Service

### (a) *Ante-Natal Care.*

Two clinics per month are held at the Haltwhistle Clinic by the local doctors.

#### (b) *Haltwhistle Hospital.*

The majority of the expectant mothers in the district are confined in the Haltwhistle Hospital.

The services of a visiting Gynaecologist, together with his staff, have proved of great assistance and are also available for emergency work.

#### (c) *Domiciliary Service.*

Two midwives reside in the area :

Miss Brown, 1 Bridge Street, Haltwhistle.  
Telephone 368.

Mrs. R. McArthur, 2 Woodlands, Bardon Mill.  
Telephone Bardon Mill 273.

Cars are provided for the use of the Nurses to attend cases in this extensive district.

### **Home Help Service**

The County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district.

Home Helps are available to householders where such help is required in cases of illness, but priority is given to domiciliary maternity cases.

More and more use is being made of the Service by old people and the chronic sick.

### **County Orthopaedic Service**

The Orthopaedic Clinic for Children is held at Hexham General Hospital every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and at Haltwhistle Child Welfare Clinic every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

An Orthopaedic Surgeon attends on the fourth Tuesday every month at Hexham General Hospital and on the second Wednesday of every month at Haltwhistle Child Welfare Clinic.

### **Child Welfare Service**

Clinics are held at Haltwhistle Clinic every Thursday by the Child Welfare Medical Officer and the Health Visitor.

A Clinic is also held at Gilsland every fourth Friday.

### **School Dental Clinic**

Clinics are held every Monday and Thursday, and Friday of alternate weeks at Haltwhistle Clinic. The Dentist visits the various schools in the district.

Dental Officer — Mr. I. W. Atchison, B.D.S.

### **Public Health Laboratory Service**

The Public Health Laboratory, under the Director, J. H. Hale, is located at the Newcastle General Hospital.

### **Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths**

Registrar :	Mrs. F. Robinson.
Office :	C.W.S. Building, Main Street, Haltwhistle.
Hours :	Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays :— 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Thursdays :—2—3 p.m.

TABLE I

The following table shows the principle vital mortality rates for the year 1958-70.

YEAR	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	General Death Rate per 1,000 Living	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Death Rate from Respiratory T.B. per 1,000 Living
1958	14.22	10.18	9.51	.00
1959	13.66	12.73	19.42	.00
1960	11.26	13.87	12.19	.00
1961	15.81	13.5	18.35	.00
1962	14.45	13.87	40.4	.00
1963	14.76	13.19	39.6	.68
1964	15.75	13.01	42.55	.68
1965	16.06	14.35	.00	.00
1966	16.05	10.22	31.91	.00
1967	14.78	11.44	11.62	.00
1968	12.17	13.49	25.75	.00
1969	13.5	14.8	57.5	.15
1970	13.2	12.2	12.82	.00

TABLE II.  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

DISEASE	YEAR										
	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Small Pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	2	3	1	21	5	15	58	17	29	10	3
Whooping Cough ..	1	—	—	1	32	—	—	12	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	12	266	—	79	112	96	15	147	8	2	9
Pneumonia ..	5	2	1	21	8	4	3	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	—
TOTALS ..	20	271	2	126	158	118	77	177	37	31	12





TABLE IV.  
NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

YEAR	Registered Births					Illegitimate Births (included in Registered Births)				
	Live Births		Still Births			Live Births		Still Births		
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1959	58	45	—	1	104	—	2	—	1	3
1960	42	40	1	2	85	1	3	—	1	5
1961	61	48	1	1	111	4	1	—	—	5
1962	45	54	2	1	102	1	1	—	—	2
1963	61	40	1	—	102	—	3	—	—	3
1964	55	39	1	1	96	2	4	—	—	6
1965	47	48	1	1	97	3	1	—	—	4
1966	57	37	—	1	95	—	—	—	—	—
1967	41	45	—	1	87	2	1	—	—	3
1968	44	29	—	—	73	—	3	—	—	3
1969	43	37	—	—	80	1	1	—	—	2
1970	37	41	—	1	79	1	—	—	—	1

TABLE V.  
INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of Infants Under 1 year of age.			Deaths of Infants Under 4 weeks of age		
	M.	F.		M.	F.
Legitimate ..	—	—	Legitimate ..	—	—
Illegitimate	1	—	Illegitimate	—	—
	—	—		—	—
	1	—		—	—

TABLE VI  
CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

	M.	F.	Total
Pneumonia .. ..	1	—	1
	1	—	1

TABLE VII  
ANALYSIS OF DEATHS BY CAUSES

CAUSES OF DEATH	M.	F.
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .. ..	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine .. ..	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx.. ..	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus .. ..	2	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .. ..	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate .. ..	1	—
Leukaemia .. ..	1	—
Other Malignant Neoplasms .. ..	1	2
Other Endocrine Etc., Diseases .. ..	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System .. ..	—	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease .. ..	—	1
Hypertensive Disease .. ..	1	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease .. ..	13	5
Other Forms of Heart Disease .. ..	4	1
Cerebrovascular Disease .. ..	4	14
Other Diseases of Circulatory System .. ..	3	5
Pneumonia .. ..	1	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema .. ..	5	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System .. ..	1	—
Peptic Ulcer .. ..	—	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System .. ..	1	—
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System.. ..	—	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents .. ..	2	—
All Other Accidents .. ..	—	1
TOTAL .. ..	43	45

TABLE VIII  
AGES AT DEATH

	M.	F.	Total
Under 4 weeks .. ..	—	—	—
4 weeks and under 1 year .. ..	1	—	1
1 — 4 years .. ..	1	—	1
5 — 14 „ .. ..	—	—	—
15 — 24 „ .. ..	1	1	2
25 — 34 „ .. ..	1	—	1
35 — 44 „ .. ..	—	—	—
45 — 54 „ .. ..	—	1	1
55 — 64 „ .. ..	7	7	14
65 — 74 .. ..	14	15	29
75 and over .. ..	18	21	39
	43	45	88

**REPORT**  
**of the**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**  
**For the Year Ended 31st December, 1970**

W. FORSTER,  
M.A.P.H.I.

*Duties :*  
Public Health.  
Housing.

Meat and Foods.  
Inspection.

Council House  
Allocation.

Refuse Collection  
and Disposal.



## WATER SUPPLY

During the year, in conjunction with the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, 95 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination, 89 being from public supplies and 6 from private supplies.

As will be seen from the following tables one sample taken from the public supply at Halton-lea-Gate fell below the accepted standard. The Halton-lea-Gate supply is permanently chlorinated manually, but because of the considerable variation of flow caused by heavy rainfall it is difficult to strike a balance between under and over chlorination, and on rare occasions a poor sample is obtained. In this particular instance the Company immediately increased the chlorination and subsequent check samples gave satisfactory results

Including new houses 12 additional properties were connected to the public mains during the year.

### Public Supplies

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SAMPLES

	No. of Samples Taken	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatis- factory
Haltwhistle .. ..	14	14	—
Melkridge .. ..	3	3	—
Gilsland .. ..	5	5	—
Greenhead .. ..	3	3	—
Bardon Mill .. ..	6	6	—
Henshaw .. ..	2	2	—
Slaggyford .. ..	13	13	—
Halton-lea-Gate .. ..	11	10	1
Thorngrifton .. ..	12	12	—
Coanwood .. ..	2	2	—
Waterloo .. ..	9	9	—
Park Village .. ..	4	4	—
Lambley .. ..	3	3	—
Featherstone .. ..	2	2	—
	89	88	1

### Private and Proposed Supplies

6 samples were taken, the results of which are given below.

	No. of Samples Taken		Number Satisfactory		Number Unsatisfactory		Total Samples Taken
	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	
Spring on Fell, High Old Shield, Greenhead ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
High Old Shield Farm, Greenhead ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Burnt Walls, Whitfield .. ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Double Dykes Farm, Hartleyburn ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
yers Hall Farm, Hartleyburn ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Boul Potts, Hartleyburn ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
	6	—	2	—	4	—	6

### Details of Houses and Population Supplied from Public Mains

Parish	No. of Houses Direct from Mains	Estimated Population	No. of Houses Served by Standpipes	Estimated Population
Bardon Mill ..	101	275	2	4
Coanwood ..	56	179	—	—
Featherstone ..	49	135	5	10
Greenhead ..	73	200	—	—
Haltwhistle ..	1338	4075	—	—
Hartleyburn ..	93	273	—	—
Henshaw ..	174	500	—	—
Melkridge ..	58	180	—	—
Plenmeller with Whitfield ..	29	90	—	—
Kirkhaugh with Knaresdale	68	200	—	—
Thirlwall ..	148	473	—	—
	2187	6580	7	14

Sources closed or discontinued	—	No. of Houses	..	..	—
New Service provided :—					
(a) By Local Authority ..	Nil	No. of Houses	..	..	Nil
(b) By Newcastle and Gates, head Water Company	12	No. of Houses	..	..	12
(c) By Private Owner ..	—	No. of Houses	..	..	—

## HOUSING

### Council House Building

No council houses were built during the year but the Council had, under consideration, proposals for erecting further Aged Persons Dwellings on sites in Greenholme Road and Park Road, Haltwhistle.

### New Houses Completed During the Year

New Houses completed during the Year.	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total
(a) By Local Authority ..	—	—	—
(b) By any other Housing Authority .. ..	—	—	—
(c) By private persons ..	—	7	7
	—	7	7

### Houses Under Construction at 31/12/70

	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	—	—	—
(b) By other persons or bodies	—	5	5
	—	5	5

The total number of houses owned by the Council is now 597, of which 65 are for aged persons. This figure also includes the Warden's Flat at Greenholme Road and the Caretaker's Cottage at Greencroft Lodge.

Details of Council Housing Estates are shown in the following tables.

**Details of Council Housing Estates as at 31/12/70**  
**General Purpose Houses**

ESTATE	TYPE OF HOUSE					TOTAL
	3 BR	3 BR Maison- ette	2 BR	2 BR Flat Ground Floor	2 BR Flat First Floor	
<i>Haltwhistle :</i>						
Greencroft	24	—	—	—	—	24
Greencroft Lodge	—	—	1	—	—	1
Park Road	31	—	—	—	—	31
Park Avenue	24	—	—	—	—	24
Central Drive	36	—	10	—	—	46
Greencroft Avenue	11	—	—	—	—	11
Fell View ..	—	—	16	—	—	16
Comb Hill Road	14	—	—	—	—	14
Moorland Avenue	26	—	—	4	4	34
Newholme Avenue	44	—	—	4	4	52
Fairholme Avenue	12	—	—	—	—	12
Capel Avenue	10	—	—	8	8	26
Castle Hill	—	—	2	—	—	2
High Row	—	—	3	—	—	3
Westlands	34	—	2	—	—	36
Railway Terrace	—	—	5	—	—	5
Burn Close	14	—	—	—	—	14
Woodhead Lane	—	—	—	8	8	16
Woodhead Close	—	18	—	6	—	24
Greenholme Close	—	20	—	10	—	30
Warden's Flat	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greenholme Road	—	—	—	—	1	1
	280	38	39	40	25	422
<i>Longbyre :</i>						
Holyrood Place	2	—	—	—	—	2
<i>Greenhead :</i>						
Milburn Terrace	1	—	4	—	—	5
<i>Coanwood :</i>						
High Ridley	8	—	—	—	—	8
<i>Gilsland :</i>						
Rosehill ..	13	—	—	—	—	13
<i>Bardon Mill :</i>						
Broadacres ..	36	—	8	—	—	44
<i>Halton-Lea-Gate :</i>						
Leaside ..	30	—	8	—	—	38
	370	38	59	40	25	532



### Aged Persons Dwellings

ESTATE	Bungalows	D. Smith Bungalows	Ground Floor Flat	First Floor Flat	Totals
Holmeside Cresc.	11	—	—	—	11
Meadow Close . .	12	—	—	—	12
Greenholme Rd.	—	—	16	16	32
D. Smith B'low's	—	10	—	—	10
	23	10	16	16	65

### Council House Applications

At the end of the year there were 110 applications for general purpose houses and 63 for aged persons dwellings.

Although no new council houses were built, 13 families were rehoused during the year as a result of casual vacancies, 9 into general purpose houses, and 4 into aged persons dwellings. By exchanges of tenancies and transfers 8 families were moved into houses more suitable to their needs.

**Improvement Grants**

49 applications for improvement grants were received during the year, the highest number in any year since the introduction of the system in 1949. Of the 49 properties involved 34 were owner occupied and 15 were tenanted. Grants amounting to £21,585 were approved.

During the year, works of improvement were completed in respect of 41 properties and grants amounting to £19,261 were passed for payment.

Since the inception of the scheme in 1949, the total number of houses for which grant approval has been given is 437. Of this number 313 were for owner occupied properties and 124 for rented houses, 5 of these being council owned.

**Standard Grants**

7 applications for standard grant were received during the year, all of which were approved.

During the year standard amenities were provided in 6 properties and grants amounting to £800 were passed for payment.

Since this type of grant was introduced in 1960, 114 houses have been provided with standard amenities which they previously lacked. Of these properties 65 were owner occupied and 49 were tenanted, 16 of the latter being council owned.

## Summary of Discretionary Grants Approved

Year	Number of Houses	Owner Occupied	Rented	Amount of Grant Approved £
1950	6	6	—	717
1951	7	5	2	1142
1952	11	9	2	2424
1953	12	9	3	2585
1954	23	13	10	4239
1955	25	20	5	6203
1956	23	13	10	5089
1957	26	16	10	6160
1958	27	23	4	7391
1959	10	7	3	1964
1960	20	13	7	4256
1961	17	13	4	4097
1962	20	13	7	4344
1963	16	11	5	3994
1964	22	12	10	4494
1965	17	6	11	4471
1966	16	15	1	4434
1967	9	8	1	3162
1968	42	35	7	11201
1969	39	32	7	13376
1970	49	34	15	21585
	437	313	124	117468

## Summary of Standard Grants Completed

Year	No. of houses	L.A.	Private	Owner Occupied	Rented	Basic Amenities provided				
						Bath	Wash hand basin	Hot Water Supply	Internal W.C.	Sink
1959	2	—	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2
1960	6	—	6	4	2	3	3	4	4	4
1961	15	2	13	12	3	8	8	7	15	4
1962	22	13	9	7	15	6	21	6	9	5
1963	7	1	6	2	5	4	5	4	6	1
1964	16	—	16	8	8	11	14	12	16	13
1965	5	—	5	4	1	4	4	4	5	4
1966	5	—	5	1	4	4	4	4	5	3
1967	7	—	7	3	4	5	5	5	7	1
1968	7	—	7	6	1	5	5	5	7	5
1969	16	—	16	14	2	8	7	9	16	5
1970	6	—	6	3	3	4	6	6	6	—
	114	16	98	65	49	64	84	67	97	47

**Unfit Houses**

No statutory action under the Housing Acts was taken during the year.

**Certificates of Qualification**

During the year applications for certificates of qualification were received relating to four properties. The owners of these houses, the tenancies of which were controlled, had submitted to the Council, proposals for their improvement and wished to make application to the Rent Officer for fair rents to be fixed.

Certificates of provisional approval were given in all cases, and certificates of qualification were issued in respect of three of the properties where the works of improvement had been completed.



### Inspection and Supervision of Food

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

### Summary of Unsound Food Surrendered or Seized

During the year 100 lbs. of various foodstuffs were certified as unfit for human consumption, details are shown in the following table.

Unsound Food	Surrendered		Seized		Legal Proceedings
	No. of Tins	Weight Lbs.	No. of Tins	Weight Lbs.	
Tinned Meats ..	13	47	—	—	—
Tinned Fruit ..	12	16	—	—	—
Tinned Vegetables	19	18	—	—	—
Other Tinned Foods	9	7	—	—	—
Mushrooms ..	—	12	—	—	—
	53	100	—	—	—

### Food Inspection

241 visits to food premises were made during the year. The standard of cleanliness of both premises and personnel continues to be satisfactory.

There are a number of travelling shops and sales vans which visit various parts of the district and inspections have been carried out from time to time to ensure that hygienic practices are being complied with.

No prosecutions were taken under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations during the year.

During the year, two food premises one general dealers and one butcher's shop closed. In March Messrs. Bowman's (Chemists Ltd.) occupied the Northern Gass Board Show-room as a chemist's shop and later in the year the same firm took over the premises formerly occupied by A. Phillips. as an electricians business and re-opened as a chemists shop

Details of food premises in the area are shown in the following table.

### Food Premises

TYPE OF PREMISES					
1.	Hotels and Inns	..	..	..	15
2.	Social Clubs and Public Halls	..			15
3.	School Canteens	..	..	..	10
4.	Works Canteens	..	..	..	3
5.	Butchers	..	..	..	3
6.	General Dealers, Grocers and Confectioners	..	..	..	38
7.	Cafes and Snack Bars	..	..		6
8.	Fish and Chip Shops	..	..		1
9.	Wet Fish Shops	..	..	..	2
10.	Bakehouses	..	..	..	4
11.	Hospitals and Institutes..	..			2
12.	Ice Cream Manufacturers	..			2
13.	Mineral Water Factory	..	..		1
14.	Chemists	..	..	..	3
TOTAL .. .. .					105

### Ice Cream

Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the manufacture of Ice Cream .. .. .	2
Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the sale of pre-packed Ice Cream.. .. .	28

### Milk

Routine samples of milk have been taken regularly throughout the year by the County Health Department from all dealers who sell milk in the area. Samples have also been regularly taken of all milk supplied to schools. 23 samples were taken, 13 of which were of milk supplied to schools.

### Brucellosis

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 17/66 routine samples of milk have been taken from the herds at all farms in the district from which untreated milk is sold by retail, 13 samples were taken 12 of which gave negative results on the ring test for brucella. In the case of the one herd from which positive results were obtained a complete investigation was carried out by the farmer's own veterinary surgeon. Of the 17 animals in the herd three were identified as giving positive reactions. These were immediately removed from the herd and slaughtered. Subsequent samples taken from the herd gave negative results.

During the year a notification was received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that a sample of milk taken from a producer in this area was stated to be positive for brucella. Enquiries were made at the farm concerned, and as a result of investigations carried out one cow which gave a positive re-action was withdrawn from the herd and slaughtered.

### The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations

There are no pasteurisation plants in the district.

### Poultry Processing Premises

There are no poultry processing plants within the district.

## **REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

Refuse collection and disposal is carried out by direct labour and collections are made from practically all the reasonably accessible properties in the district.

A 12 cubic yard Karrier Bantam rear loader, purchased in August 1965, operated by a driver and two loaders is used to collect from Haltwhistle Town and Plenmeller. The Country district (Gilsland, Greenhead, Redburn, Melkridge, Bardon Mill, Thorngrafton, Beltingham, Henshaw, Slaggyford, Park Village, Coanwood, Kellah, Lambley, Halton-le-Gate and Whitfield) is served by a 7 cubic yard Ford/Eagle. side loader purchased in May 1969, and operated by a driver and one loader.

Refuse is collected from some 2,100 houses, approximately 90% of the inhabited houses in the district, and by estimated weight 2,700 tons of refuse are collected and disposed of yearly.

All refuse is disposed of at Plenmeller with the exception of one half day's refuse per week which is tipped at Lambley. The Council employ a full time tip attendant, but this man has to be used as a relief loader in times of sickness and at holiday periods.

### **Litter At 1958**

No proceedings under this Act were instituted during the year.

### **Civic Amenities Act 1968.**

In accordance with the provisions of this Act which came into operation on 17th June, 1968, a local authority has a duty to remove a motor vehicle abandoned on any part of a highway in their district.

In July of this year the council took the necessary steps to have an abandoned vehicle removed and destroyed. The Police took proceedings against the owner who was convicted and fined £5.



**FACTORIES ACT 1961**

Two premises closed down during the year, the South Tyne Fireclay Company and the Station Garage, Haltwhistle.

At the end of the year the number of factories on the register was 38 made up as follows :—

Joiners and Builders Premises .. ..	9
Garages and Motor Vehicle Repairs ..	6
Radio and Television Repairs .. ..	2
Corn Mill .. .. .	1
Bakehouses .. .. .	4
Ice Cream Manufacturers .. ..	2
Sanitary Pipe Works .. ..	1
Sausage Manufacturers .. ..	4
Concrete Products .. ..	1
Mineral Water Factory .. ..	1
Saw Mill .. .. .	1
Gas Works.. .. .	1
Plastic and Chemical Factories .. ..	3
Paint Works .. .. .	1
Toy and Fancy Goods Assembly ..	1
	<hr/>
	38
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# **FACTORIES ACT, 1961**

## **Part I of the Act.**

### **I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.**

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	3	16	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ... ..	33	62	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	3	—	—
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

### **II.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found**

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1.) ...	3	3	—		—
Overcrowding (S. 2)... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient ... ..			—		—
(b) Unsuitable or defective			—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>		<b>—</b>

## **Part VII of the Act**

### **OUTWORK**

There is one Outworker in the district engaged in embroidery. The premises have been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The details of premises registered and the numbers of persons employed show little change from the previous year. One office (Robsons Central Garage) closed during the period and was removed from the register.

191 visits were made during the year, and all premises generally complied with the provisions of the Act. A few minor contraventions such as failure to display an abstract of the Act were noted, and were remedied informally.

No accidents were reported, and no prosecutions under the Act were taken.

Details of premises and persons employed are shown in the following tables.

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered During the year	Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of Registered Premises Inspected During year
(a) Offices .. ..	—	11	12
(b) Retail Shops ..	—	40	42
(c) Wholesale Depts. Warehouses ..	—	—	—
(d) Catering Establishments open to the public ..	—	8	8
(e) Staff Canteens ..	—	1	1
(f) Fuel Storage Depot	—	1	1
TOTALS ..	—	61	64

### Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed		TOTAL
	Males	Females	
Offices .. ..	25	28	53
Retail Shops ..	62	105	167
Wholesale Depts. Warehouses ..	—	—	—
Catering Establishments	2	15	17
Staff Canteens ..	—	9	9
Fuel Storage Depots ..	1	—	1
TOTALS ..	90	157	247

## RODENT CONTROL

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

The Council continue to employ a part time rodent operative, and inspections and treatments have been satisfactorily carried out.

The following table gives details of the premises which have been inspected and treated during the year.

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district..	2526	343
2. a Total number of properties (including near by premises) inspected following notifications	168	Nil
b Number infested by		
(i) Rats .. .. .	131	—
(ii) Mice.. .. .	4	—
3. a Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification..	395	41
b Number infected by :		
(i) Rats.. .. .	72	—
(ii) Mice.. .. .	4	—
SEWERS		
4. Were any sewers infested by rats during the year ? .. .. .	No	



### **Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960**

At present there are three licensed sites in the area, one major site at Blenkinsopp Castle accommodating 70 Caravans (40 Residential and 30 Holiday), and two sites for individual caravans only. In addition the Caravan Club have issued certificates for two sites, one at Seldom Seen, Haltwhistle and the other at Ashcroft Farm, Bardon Mill, each for five caravans.

An application was received in December for a licence in respect of a site at Yont-the-Cleugh, Coanwood to accommodate 30 Holiday caravans.

### **Public Swimming Baths**

There are no public swimming baths in the area.

### **Common Lodging Houses**

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

### **Places of Entertainment, Circular 120 Ministry of Health**

Number of Cinemas	..	..	..	..	1
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### **Pet Animals Act 1951**

There are no premises in the district registered under this Act.

### **Animal Boarding Establishment Act 1963**

There are no licensed establishments in the district.

### **Noise Abatement Act 1960**

No formal action was necessary under this Act.

### **Clean Air Act 1956**

One or two minor complaints were received during the year and were dealt with informally.

### **Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964**

There are at present 4 registered dealers in the district.

### **General Administration**

A total of 490 personal callers making enquiries or complaints were received by the Public Health Department during the year, all matters arising were dealt with.

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Council House Applications	..	..	..	..	135
Council Housing (General)	..	..	..	..	113
Housing (Improvement Grants)	..	..	..	..	308
Housing (General)	..	..	..	..	112
Food Inspection	..	..	..	..	7
Food Premises	..	..	..	..	166
Places of Entertainment and Licensed Premises	..				19
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	14
Milk Sampling	..	..	..	..	29
Drainage	..	..	..	..	17
Factories	..	..	..	..	81
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	5
Caravan Sites	..	..	..	..	27
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	64
Pest Control	..	..	..	..	36
Refuse Collection and Disposal	..	..	..	..	252
Water Supplies (General)	..	..	..	..	16
Water Supplies (Sampling)	..	..	..	..	6
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises :					
Offices	..	..	..	..	43
Shops	..	..	..	..	104
Catering Establishments..	..	..	..	..	36
Staff canteens	....	..	..	..	6
Fuel Storage Depots	..	..	..	..	2
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	51
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